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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for February 23, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

CUMHURIYET: CHP (Republican People's Party) started an aid campaign right after CHP's leader Deniz Baykal's visit to the earthquake-hit Hakkari. Aid comprising of heaters, blankets, food, beverages, clothing, etc., which is worth one million new Turkish liras (\$770,000), has been raised to date by the CHP and was distributed to students and local people in Hakkari.

RADIKAL / CUMHURIYET / OZGUR GUNDEM / EVRENSEL: Veysel Guler, the defendants' attorney in the trial regarding the killing of the father and son in Kiziltepe in Mardin, is also the AKP (Justice and Development Party) Adana Deputy Provincial Chairperson. Guler cited a recent report of United Nations, which gives the number of child terrorists decreasing from 360,000 to 300,000 as an example in response to "a 12-year-old boy cannot be regarded as a terrorist" claims. Guler, casting doubts about the age of Ugur Kaymaz, drew attention to his underarm hair and noticeable moustache hairs as indicators of his being older than the prosecution contends. On the other hand, the AKP MPs of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission criticized the absence of the accused special operations team members in the first hearing of the case.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Five hundred infant goats and lambs died in Mus province due to a microbe called septicemia, which caused a contagious disease called salmallezois an which is characterized in animals by symptoms of high fever and diarrhea. The microbe takes advantage of the poor conditions that the cattle are raised in, such as the low quality feed, airless and crowded sheepfolds, poor feeding methods, hunger, and very low temperatures.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. HURRIYET (CUKUROVA) / YENI SAFAK / SABAH (GUNEY): Turkey's Aleppo Consul in Syria, Hulusi Kilic, Syria's Gaziantep Consul in Turkey, Bahjat Doughman, and the U.S.'s Adana Consul W. Scott Reid are going to attend the opening ceremony of the third of the five-day GAPSHOES fair which is organized by Gaziantep Chamber of Industry in the Gaziantep province. 125 Turkish companies participate in the event and two buses will bring Syrian businessmen to visit the fair as well.

2. TOBB'DAN HABERLER: State Minister responsible for foreign trade, Kursat Tuzmen, announced a security reform package for the border gates and ports of Turkey. Tuzmen signed a protocol agreement with TOBB (Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges) to modernize Habur Border Gate by means of a Build-Operate-Transfer Project. The physical and technical infrastructure of the Habur Border Gate will be renovated through constructing new administrative and commercial buildings and social facilities. The gate's security will be strengthened to fight smuggling through installation of security materiel such as exit-entrance control units, electronic scales, etc.

3. YENI SAFAK: The reform announced by State Minister Kursat Tuzmen for Turkish ports includes Mersin and Iskenderun's ports, and envisages the installation of closed circuit TV (CCTV) surveillance systems which will permit monitoring of the ports 24 hours a day from a central control site in Ankara.

4. MILLI GAZETE: The border gate built by Sanliurfa Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Commodity Exchange Office in Akcakale township of Sanliurfa has remained idle since then, because the dispute about the border has not been settled since 1988 and Syria has not embarked upon a project to build a border gate counterpart on its side.

5. MILLIYET / HURRIYET (CUKUROVA) / SABAH (GUNEY): CUGIAD (Cukurova Young Businessmen Association) was certified with the ISO9001-2001 Quality Management Certificate by the Italian Det Norske Veritas (DNV). The Governor of Adana, Cahit Kirac, said, "CUGIAD achieved the standards of the EU," as he received the Certificate on behalf of the association. AKP (Justice and Development Party) MP from Adana, Ayhan Zeynep Tekin Boru; CHP (Republican People's Party) MPs, Kemal Sag and Ziya Yergok; Chairperson of the Adana Chamber of Commerce, Saban Bas; and President of the Cukurova University, Alper Akinoglu,

participated in the ceremony.

16. EKSPRES: BOTAS (Turkish Petroleum Pipeline Corporation) announced that 95 percent of the BTC (Baku-Tibilisi-Ceyhan) Pipeline construction has been completed. Petroleum is expected to begin flowing into the 6 huge tanks located in the Turkish section of the pipeline (at Ceyhan port) in June 2005.

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